31: Slater S-5 (1916-1917) 1918 AWI India
Kerala AWII

237 (called varatties) and used as fuel to supplement firewood, by the poorer classes, who go about picking the stray deposits of cattle-dung in the by-ways and streets. Perhaps a small percentage of cattle-dung is wasted. Yet it is the most important manure and an acre of land uses 100 to 150 baskets of it.

Cattle urine is not used, except by Brahman ladies to a very small extent, in growing kitchen vegetables in their backyards.

The refuse of goat-pens and of fowls (which are kept in most low-class and Nayar houses), as well as bone dust, is used in small quantities for growing garden vegetables.

241 All sorts of green manure are used. About fifty to seventy-five bales of green stuff are used on one acre of land. But green manure is not grown; it is obtained from the neighbouring woods, and the shrubby undergrowth which is commonly found on almost every hillside and in the compounds of houses.

Wood-ash is commonly used, especially in garden cultivation.

Salt is used in coconut plantations.

Chemical manures are unknown in the village.

Garden cultivation is an important item, and very profitable too, though it is not yet carried on very extensively. About 110 acres of land are used for this purpose. Water is obtained mostly from wells, of which there is one or more in every garden. The chief products are coconuts (selling at Rs. 3 to Rs. 5 per 100), arecanuts used for chewing, etc. (Rs. 1½ to Rs. 2 per 1,000), plantains or bananas (Rs. 5 to Rs. 15 per 1,000), jack-fruits (2 to 6 annas each), mangoes, yams and various kitchen vegetables like pumpkins, brinjals, etc. These are cultivated in almost all gardens. Pepper and ginger, betel leaves and turmeric, are also cultivated in all good gardens. Pepper is very valuable and gives a good profit.

[722] Coconuts being largely exported in the form of copra, have fallen 50 per cent in price, through shortage of freight, during the war. This has entailed great hardship on the large classes of coconut growers and workers in the Malabar Coast, this village suffering with the rest.

242 *Insect-pests.*—A kind of beetle sometimes does great damage to the crops—especially the new paddy crops and plantains. Small birds also carry away grains of corn. The usual method of combating them is to keep watch in the fields and drive them off—a very tedious and difficult operation. No help is got from the Agricultural Department, of whose very existence the village is unaware.

232 *Cattle diseases.*—Hoof disease is the commonest and most dangerous. Kerosene oil mixed with lamp black is the popular remedy. There is another disease—a sort of suffocation. A cholera-like disease is also heard of, accompanied by bleeding, etc. Snake-poisoning is another danger, a bite on the nose being supposed to be fatal. The villagers have their traditional methods of combating these. Charms and incantations are used to supplement medicine. No assistance is obtained from the Agricultural Department.

313 *Wood* is obtained from the neighbouring forests, as well as from the clusters of trees in the village. Building timber is often